

## **II. Remarks**

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested. Claims 34 and 38 have been amended. Claims 21-33, 35-37, and 40 have been cancelled.

After entering this amendment, claims 34, 38, and 39 remain pending.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

The Examiner's indication that claims 34 and 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and/or to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is gratefully acknowledged. With regard to claim 34, this claim is now presented in independent form including all the limitations of its base claims and any intervening claims. Since dependent claims necessarily include all the limitations of their intervening claims, it is submitted that the amendment of claim 34 is not a narrowing amendment and do not give rise to any estoppel issues with regard to their interpretation under the doctrine of equivalents or limitations on that doctrine. As will be described in greater detail in the paragraphs that follow, claims 34 and 38 have been rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

### *Claim Objections*

Claims 21, 35, 38, and 40 were objected to because of informalities. It is first noted that claims 21, 35, and 40 have been cancelled rendering the objections relating to those claims as moot. However, claims 21 and 33 were incorporated into claim 34. Therefore, amended claim 34 has been amended such that each element of the claim is separated by a line indentation. As to claim 38, claim 38 has been

amended similarly to claim 34 with each element of the claim being separated by a line indentation. As such, it is believed that this objection should now be withdrawn.

*Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112*

Claims 21-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is first noted that all claims have been cancelled, with the exception of claims 34, 38, and 39. In an effort to overcome the rejections in claims 34, 38, and 39 the following amendments have been made:

- Claims 34 and 38 each have had their preamble amended such that these claims now recite “A connecting device for a plug-in connection comprising ...” this amendment is to clarify that the applicant is claiming a connecting device.
- Claims 34 and 38 have been amended to clarify that the insert part of the housing part includes an inner cone surface. Further, these claims have been amended to recite that the insert part is connected to the base part via a snap-action form-fitting connection.
- Claim 34 has been amended to recite that the retaining edges are formed on the insert part.
- Claim 34 has been amended to recite that the first retaining edges are located near at least two spring arms. Further, claim 34 has been amended to recite the second retaining edges are situated between the spring arms.
- Claim 38 has been amended to replace the phrase “the sleeve-shaped insert part” with the phrase “the insert part.”

- Claim 38 has been amended to recite that the insert part has at least two radially elastic spring arms having longitudinal slots in between the elastic spring arms.

As such, the undersigned believes that the above amendments will overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for claims 34, 38, and 39. Of course, the undersigned invites the examiner to contact him via telephone if these amendments do not fully overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

#### *Objections to the Drawings*

The drawings were objected to because features claimed in claims 37 and 40 were allegedly not shown in the Figures. Although the undersigned is unwilling to fully agree with the examiner, claims 37 and 40 have been cancelled, rendering this objection moot.

#### *Conclusion*

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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